

**VIA ELECTRONIC FILING**

Marlene H. Dortch, Secretary  
Federal Communications Commission  
445 Twelfth Street, S.W.  
Washington, D.C. 20554

**Re:   *Ex Parte* Communication  
      RM-11738**

Dear Ms. Dortch:

Western Farmers Electric Cooperative (“WFEC”) is a generation and transmission cooperative that provides essential electric service to its 21 member cooperatives in Oklahoma and New Mexico as well as Altus Air Force Base, farming interests, oil & gas producers, and other commercial and industrial applications throughout Oklahoma and parts of New Mexico. WFEC was organized in 1941 when western Oklahoma rural electric distribution cooperatives found it necessary to secure an adequate power supply at rates farmers and rural industrial developers could afford.

WFEC is Oklahoma’s largest locally owned power supply system. The company has a history of being at the forefront of technological change, not only in how it generates and delivers energy to its members, but also in adopting technologically advanced approaches to the non-utility functions that enable it to fulfill its mission efficiently and economically.

WFEC is a long-standing licensee of the FCC and holds authorizations in a variety of bands. WFEC’s need for broadband capability to support its field area networks throughout its operating area is growing as the size and complexity of its network continues to expand. Ideally, WFEC needs to be able to select optimal solutions from a variety of broadband options and suppliers. The availability of secure wireless broadband connectivity is critical to WFEC, and its member cooperatives’ ability to continue to deliver reliable and cost effective power to the communities and businesses we serve.

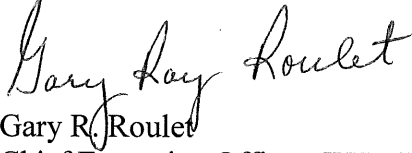
WFEC supports the proposed realignment of the 900 MHz band to create an allocation that offers additional broadband capabilities that could be utilized to meet not only WFEC’s needs but those of other utilities across the nation.

WFEC believes that the very favorable propagation characteristics of 900 MHz spectrum would enable it to deploy a broadband system in its largely rural area which is built to its specific requirements at a cost that could be supported by its members.

The critical issue is that the FCC rules provide choices for utilities whether they wish to operate on a private or a commercial broadband network, whether they serve heavily or more sparsely populated markets, and whether their transmissions needs are routinely mission critical or less immediately urgent. WFEC is confident that the 900 MHz proposal in this proceeding

would create a broadband alternative that is very well-suited for its coverage, cost, and functionality requirements and would prove a highly attractive option for many other utilities as well.

Sincerely,

A handwritten signature in cursive script that reads "Gary R. Roulet". The signature is written in dark ink and is positioned above the printed name and title.

Gary R. Roulet  
Chief Executive Officer, WFEC

cc: Chairman Tom Wheeler  
Commissioner Mignon Clyburn  
Commissioner Jessica Rosenworcel  
Commissioner Ajit Pai  
Commissioner Michael O'Rielly